

# CANYON COUNTY PEACEMAKING CIRCLE PROJECT: SUPPORTING OUR LATINO YOUTH AND FAMILIES



*A Partnership Between the Idaho Department of  
Juvenile Corrections and Canyon County*

# OVERVIEW

- Introductions
- Goals
- Developing Relationships
- Ways to Live Restoratively

# 10 ways to live restoratively

by Howard Zehr

1. Take relationships seriously, envisioning yourself in an interconnected web of people, institutions and the environment.
2. Try to be aware of the impact  $\pm$  potential as well as actual  $\pm$  of your actions on others and the environment.
3. When your actions negatively impact others, take responsibility by acknowledging and seeking to repair the harm  $\pm$  even when you could probably get away with avoiding or denying it.
4. Treat everyone respectfully, even those you don't expect to encounter again, even those you feel don't deserve it, even those who have harmed or offended you or others.
5. Involve those affected by a decision, as much as possible, in the decision-making process.
6. View the conflicts and harms in your life as opportunities.
7. Listen, deeply and compassionately, to others, seeking to understand even if you don't agree with them. (Think about who you want to be in the latter situation rather than just being right.)
8. Engage in dialogue with others, even when what is being said is difficult, remaining open to learning from them and the encounter.
9. Be cautious about imposing your "truths" and views on other people and situations.
10. Sensitive confront everyday injustices including sexism, racism and classism.

# Ten Ways to Live Restoratively

by Howard Zehr

1. Take relationships seriously, envisioning yourself in an interconnected web of people, institutions and the environment.

# Canyon County Census Data

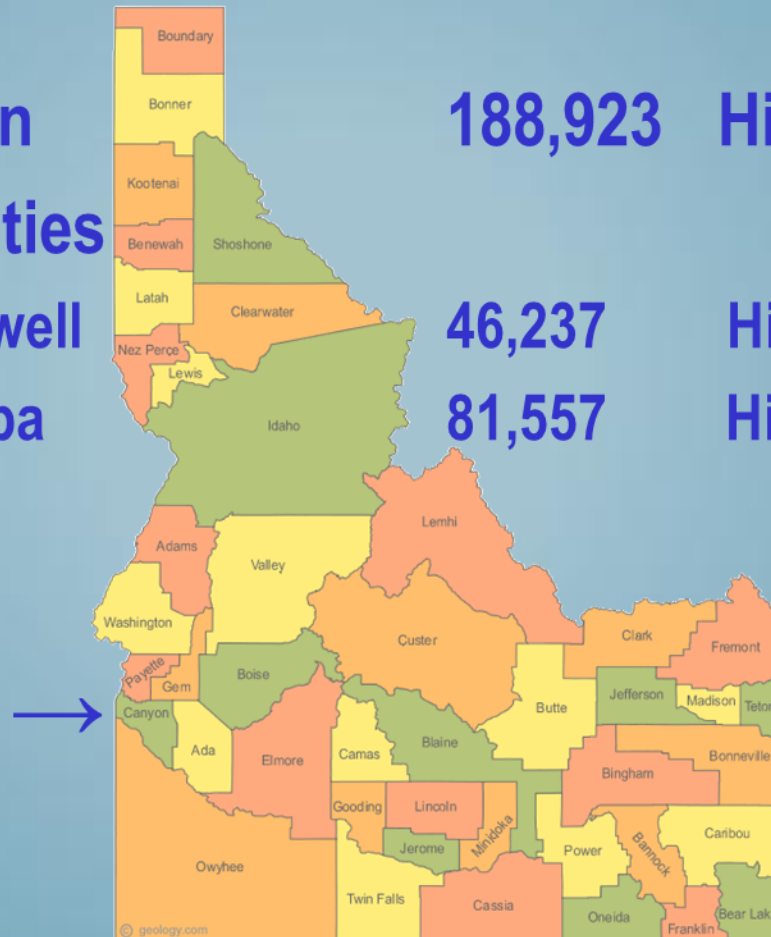
- Total Population
- Two Primary Cities

Caldwell  
Nampa

188,923 Hispanic 23.9%

46,237 Hispanic 35.4%

81,557 Hispanic 22.9%



## ***2005 RRI Data for Canyon County***

*In comparison to White, Non-Hispanic youth;  
Hispanic or Latino youth were:*

- *91% more likely to be arrested (almost double)*
- *38% more likely to go to detention*
- *81% more likely to be committed to state custody*

# GETTING STARTED

- **Assessment**

Presentation of report to Community

DMC Causal Factor – Gang Involvement

- **Timing**

Gang activity in community

- **Steering Committee:**

Law Enforcement, Probation, Detention,  
Non-Profits, Private Providers,  
Prosecutor,

Housing, Judges, Corrections, Public  
Defense,

# STRATEGIC PLAN

*In May, 2010 the steering committee developed a strategic plan with primary goals:*

- Improved Data Collection
- Community Mobilization
- Prevention / Early Intervention Programs



# Gangs

- Why do juveniles join gangs? (Esbensen, Deschenes, and Winfree, 1999)
- Protection
- Fun / Risk
- Respect
- Money
- Friends / family in gang

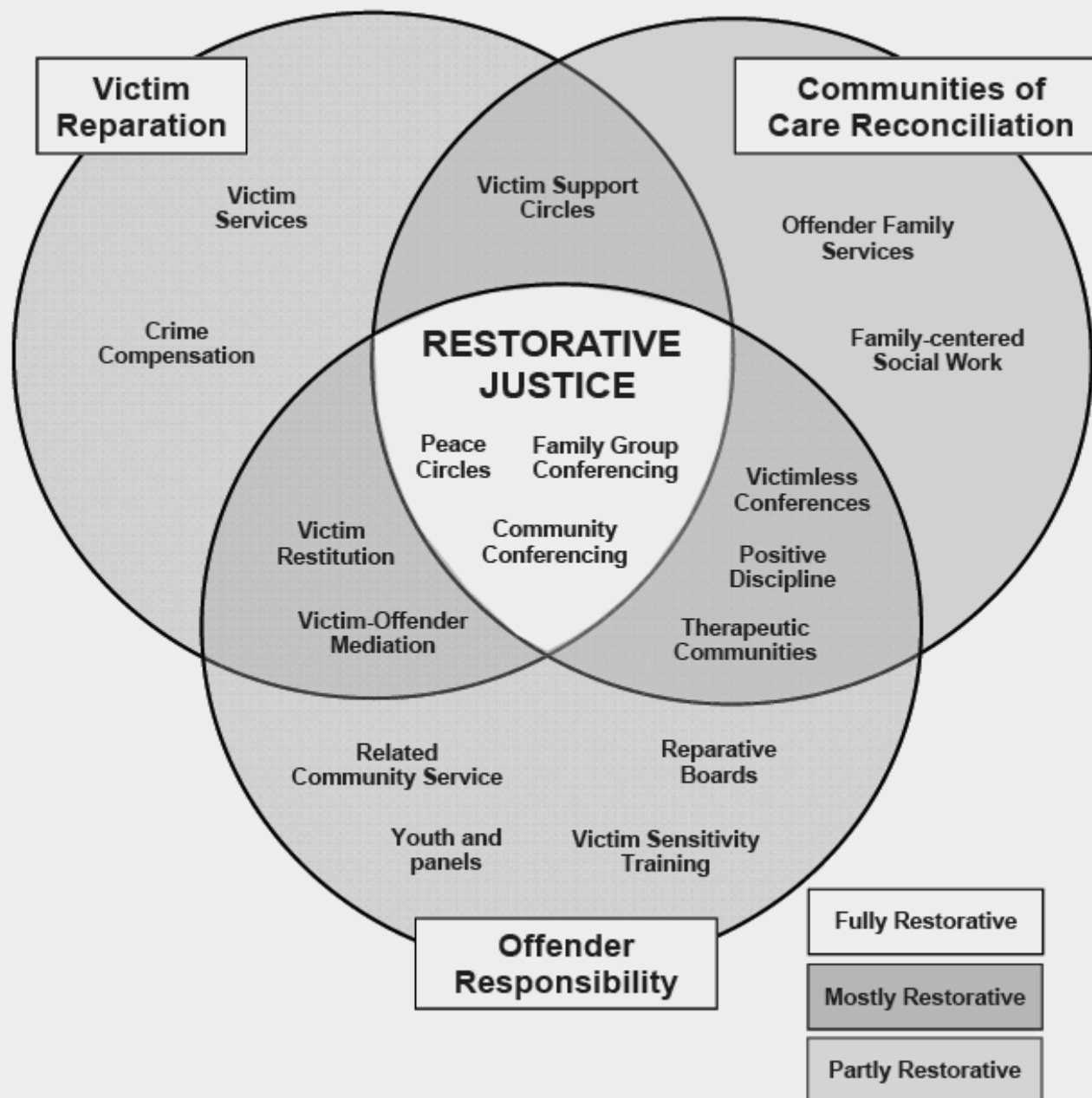
# Gang Affiliation Risk and Protective Factors Addressed by RJ

Domain	Risk Factors	Protective Factors
<b>Individual</b>	Antisocial behavior, community attachment	Social competencies, self esteem
<b>Family</b>	Family conflict, family management	Positive bonding
<b>School</b>	Attachment to school, school environment	Caring and support
<b>Community</b>	Neighborhood attachment, community crime	Caring, supportive adults, safe environment
<b>Peer</b>	Gang involved peers	Positive group activities and norms

Adapted from Communities that Care model and OJJDP Title V program

# RESTORATIVE APPROACHES

- Stakeholder Training
- Competitive Grant for local programs
- Training for Law Enforcement Officers
  - Spanish Language / Culture Training
- Peacemaking Circles
- Community Forums



Source: *In Pursuit of Paradigm: A Theory of Restorative Justice*, by Paul McCold and Ted Wachtel.  
Paper presented at the XIII World Congress of Criminology, 10-15 August 2003, Rio de Janeiro.

# WHAT ARE CIRCLES?

*A process that brings together individuals who wish to engage in:*

- conflict resolution, healing, support
- decision making
- other activities in which honest communications, relationship development, and community building are core desired outcomes.



# CIRCLES

- Circles create a sacred space that lifts barriers between people;
- Opens fresh possibilities for connection, collaboration and mutual understanding;
- The process works because it brings people together in a way that allows them to see one another as human beings and to talk about what matters.

# LESSONS LEARNED

## ✓ Invest in outreach and education

- ❖ Annual conference, continuous training, messaging
- ❖ Think in terms of years

## ✓ Culture change within JJ System

- ❖ The system must transform to a restorative philosophy

## ✓ Tough on crime

## ✓ Volunteers are not Free

- ❖ Invest adequate resources to coordinate and support

# Relative Rate Index Comparison for Hispanic Youth

Year	Arrest	Detention	Commitment
2005	1.91	1.38	1.81
2011	1.01	1.63	**

\*\* insufficient numbers for statistical analysis



# CANYON COUNTY PEACEMAKING CIRCLE PROJECT: SUPPORTING OUR LATINO YOUTH AND FAMILIES



*A Partnership Between the Idaho Department of  
Juvenile Corrections and Canyon County*